

## Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes Feb 19, 2014 FINAL

Chairman Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7.05pm.

### **Attendance**

In attendance were Commission members Mr. Lembeck, Mr. Cecil, Ms. Chandler, Mr. Dengler, Ms. Greener, and Mr. McGinty. Mr. Bavuso arrived at 7.18pm. Recreation Director Ms. Sarah Orsay were also in attendance. Councilman Mr. Ben Day was absent.

### **Public Comment Portion**

There were several Rumson Soccer Club (“RSC”) coaches present: Ms. Shelly Champeau, Mr. Matt Cheslock, Ms. Jenn Collum-Glassman, Mr. Steve Ferjentsik (an assistant coach), Mr. Todd Havard, Mr. Dave Memmott, Mr. Bob O’Connell, Mr. Randy Rosen, and Mr. Alex Shanley.

The coaches were present to discuss provide input to continue to enhance the Rumson Soccer Club travel soccer program.

Recreation Commissioner and Head of Rumson Soccer Club, Bob McGinty welcomed the soccer coaches and thanked them for attendance. He reminded the coaches that the mission of the Rumson soccer club is to expand the opportunities for competitive soccer to the largest number of residents possible. The goal is to keep as many children as interested playing soccer for as long as possible. The goal is not necessarily to have the most competitive team possible, but the most competitive team within these parameters.

With this in mind Mr. McGinty posed several questions to the coaches. First, would the coaches like to open up the soccer club to Fair Haven residents? Several coaches indicated they would like this because 1) it would make the teams more competitive by having a larger pool of players to choose from and, 2) in some cases, there are not enough Rumson children to field a team.

This was discussed at length and several viewpoints presented. The commissioners reminded the coaches that the goal is not to have the most competitive teams possible but rather to include the greatest number of resident children while still being able to participate in the travel league on a competitive level.

For grades where there is high interest, the pros and cons and having an “A” and a “B” team were discussed. However, the Commission reminded the coaches that already limited field space does not allow for multiple teams per grade.

The possibility of establishing U8 teams was proposed and discussed, but again lack of field availability is an issue. Currently, the RSC only offers teams U9 and older.

The public comment portion ended at 8:15 PM.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Lembeck asked for approval of the November 2013 and January 2014 Minutes (there was no December 2013 meeting). Mr. McGinty raised the motion to approve the November 2014 Minutes, Mr. Dangler seconded the motion, and the November Minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Bavuso made the motion to approve the January 2014 Minutes, Sharon Greener seconded the motion and the January Minutes were unanimously approved.

Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes  
Feb 19, 2014 FINAL

**Chairman's Announcements** – None.

**Directors Report**

**Parks**–Ms. Orsay is currently working on scheduling the fields for the Spring season. It is anticipated that the fields may be in rough shape due to the harsh and wet winter.

**Programs**

**Basketball** –there have been many cancellations due to weather. The professional door monitors seem to be working well. The synagogue is likely to require door monitors next season. The basketball season runs until March 1 and ends with a Double Elimination March Madness Tournament for grades five through eight. This is the first time we are having a tournament in Rec basketball.

**RFH Rowing** - Ms. Orsay has received positive feedback on the improvement of the winter conditioning program over past years, particularly that the program seems more rigorous and more organized. In addition the numbers were limited so that each athlete has an erg. The program was moved to the high school fitness center this year, which is an ideal location. The Borough moved its 11 ergs to the High School for this purpose and also has access to the High School's 5 ergs.

Molly O'Rourke, the RFH rowing coach, was selected as the high school rowing coach for the spring. It is anticipated there will be two full-time coaches and three part-time coaches.

The fundraising for the High School Spring rowing program has been successful. So far over \$80,000 in raffle tickets has been sold. The February 1 party reportedly raised over \$10,000. The high school estimates the season will cost \$50,000. The raffle drawing is on March 1. Ms. Orsay explained the IRS W-2G rules on withholding tax required from the winner.

**Baseball**–the registration deadline was January 31 and Ms. Orsay expects only a few late registrations, due to both the ease of on-line registration, improved communication, and also the \$25 Late Fee.

There are over 355 children registered for baseball, anticipating 8 T-ball teams 8 first and second grade teams, 3 first and second grade softball teams, 2 3&4th grade softball teams, one fifth and sixth grade softball team, 3 9U baseball teams, 3 10 baseball teams, 3 12U baseball teams and 3 14U baseball teams. This is significantly more teams than in past years, particularly in the younger age groups. We've made a concerted efforts to keep the team small's to maximize children's touch time.

The coaches are set for the older grades and we have many volunteers and younger grades but need to firm up who will be head coaches, taking on full responsibility for the teams.

Uniforms have been ordered and grades K through 2 will be minor league teams, which is a change, and grades 3 – 8 will be major-league team jerseys with the Two River Little League logo on the sleeve.

Fields – we are scheduling a few “open diamonds” each week for make ups.

Schedule – we will have more Saturday games on the schedule to better accommodate parents and coaches. T-ball will have 60-90 minutes on Saturdays rather than a two hour time slot, and first and second grade teams will have one weekday practice and a Saturday afternoon game allowing them to participate in lacrosse programs on Saturday mornings.

Two River Little League has monthly update meetings attended by our Board representatives, John Caruso and Bob Oakes, and also Sarah Orsay. Ms. Orsay is an ex-officio member of the TRLL Board.

Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes  
Feb 19, 2014 FINAL

**Travel Baseball**—the Borough is sponsoring 4 travel baseball teams: 8U (Coach Todd Herman), 9U (Coach Frank Lauria), 10U (Coach Steve Ferjentsik), 11U (Coach Brad Sakale). The teams have held or will be holding competitive tryouts advertised everyone in Rumson.

**Girls Lacrosse**—open registration ended on January 31. Like baseball the numbers from across have increased from last year and we expect to have 7 or 8 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade teams, 3 5/6 teams and 2 or 3 7/8 teams. In order to address the many participant conflicts with weekday practice schedules we are instituting a flexible practice schedule in which the athletes can attend any and as many practices as they wish according to their schedule, but they will play games with their assigned teams. So far we have received a positive response from parents on this.

There will be a tournament team for grades 5&6 (coached by Matt Cheslock) and grade 7&8 (coached by Sean Clifford). It is a requirement to be registered for and play for the recreation team. There approximately 35 signed up so far for the early March tryouts.

**Camp**—Ms. Orsay is working on lining up summer camps and hoping to have it Camp Information Night with Fair Haven Recreation on April 1 at the high school.

**Summer Playground**—counselor applications are available through the Rumson Recreation website March 1 - March 31. Mr. Wilson, who runs Summer Playground, anticipates this to be very competitive this year as he expects few slots to be open due to many returning counselors.

**Committee reports**

**Travel basketball**—Mr. Cecil would like to set up a meeting with RCDS to discuss more basketball space in the fall and winter. He also mentioned the idea of offering Rec clinic's once a week rather than team practices as the team practices seem not well attended and very crowded. He also mentioned the possibility of hiring trainers to run the clinics.

**Travel Soccer** – Based on the discussion during the public comment portion, the Commission discussed opening up the travel soccer program to Fair Haven residents. It was agreed to maintain the current policy that coaches may open up their teams to Fair Haven in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, if they would like. For the younger grades, it was suggested that the coaches petition the Commission via Mr. McGinty, and the decision will be based on numbers, not improved competitiveness. It was further suggested that travel soccer tryout registrations take place March 15 through April 6 so that coaches would have an early idea of the interest. Ms. Chandler made a motion to approve, Mr. Bavuso seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Baseball**—Mr. McGinty raised a motion to formally approve Bob Oakes and John Caruso as Rumson's Two River Little League representatives. Mr. Dengler seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Per the Commission's prior request, Ms. Orsay presented a list of volunteer coaches for Recreation baseball and lacrosse. The commissioners reviewed the list, no objections were raised, and so Mr. Bavuso raised the motion to approve the list, Mr. McGinty seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes  
Feb 19, 2014 FINAL

**Special events**

Ms Orsay announced that the **Saint Patrick's Day Green Tree Lighting** will take place on March 2 at 5 PM at Victory Park. The **Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade** will take place on Sunday, March 9 at 1 PM start. Ms. Orsay plans to have a Rumson Recreation float in the parade, using the OEM army truck, complete with banners, and filled with Rec basketball kids. The first invitations would be to Rec basketball coaches in Grades 3 & above and their children as a way to thank our volunteer coaches for their service.

The Baseball Opening Day parade will take place on Saturday, April 5 9 AM at Piping Rock. There was discussion of combining this event with Fair Haven baseball, who hosts a larger day-long event at Fair Haven Fields, and also discussion of making the Rumson event bigger by having bouncy castles, dunk tanks, and fun baseball related games. Miss Orsay said she would look into the various suggestions.

Ms. Orsay reminded the Commissioners that the crew car raffle winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, March 1 at 9 PM at Bingham Hall.

Ms. Orsay mentioned that the Municipal Alliance would be co-sponsoring a talk on Heroin on Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 PM at Red Bank Regional High School. All parents are encouraged to attend.

**Projects**

None to report

**Administrative**

Ms. Orsay is going to the annual New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA) conference in March for continuing education. It is a great opportunity for idea exchange with peers. Seminars will include after school activities, newsletters, bullying, getting kids out doors, and the impact on the professionalization of Youth Sports.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurers Report. Potential future spending project suggestions included evening out the path at Meadow Ridge park, including laying down wood chips. Another idea was to convert Meadow Ridge bathroom into a concession stand. Ms. Orsay said she would follow up with Mr. Rogers and the Council on the efficacy of these ideas.

**Old Business**

Ms. Orsay indicated that she and Mr. Rogers felt that field/facility fees should wait and implement a plan in 2015, with the exception of commercial groups who should continue to be charged. This also gives an opportunity to make users aware of the changes well before they are implemented. Ms. Orsay anticipated that charges will not have a significant impact on most residents.

**New Business**

Ms. Orsay will look into the feasibility of renting space at RCDS or the Presbyterian Church as a possible community room for informal but supervised high school activities.

Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes  
Feb 19, 2014 FINAL

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19 at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman Court room.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay  
Director of Recreation